The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Postoffice at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 11. NO. 8. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1921. WHOLE NO. 528.

STATISTICS ARE JUGGLED TO DEFEND WAGE CUTS

Lower food cots is being capitalized by cheap wage employers to enforce a living standard below prewar times.

These employers talk about wage rates of 80, 90, and 100 per cent over prewar times, and would convey the impression that prewar rates were ideal. Wage rates, based on prewar standards, are valueless, because these rates did not assure living standards.

A family's food bill approximates 40 per cent of the bread winner's income, according to the United States bureau of labor statistics.

This means that a worker who is paid $7 a day, for instance, spends 40 per cent, or $2.80, for food for his family.

If food costs are lowered 20 per cent, he "saves" one-fifth of this $2.80, or 56 cents a day.

This "saving," which is eaten up, and in some cases exceeded, by increased rents, fuel, light and other necessaries, is a pretext by employers to reduce wages 20 per cent, or to cut the rate of $7 a day to one-fifth of that amount—$1.40.

The worker now finds that he is paid $5.60 a day, with the few pennies that he saved through less food costs taken over by other profiteers.

The most superficial thinker must see that the worker is worse off than before, and that every wage cut extends the "buyers' strike," which cheap-wage advocates deplore.

Self preservation is behind labor's fight against wage reductions.

The workers are not impressed by awesome contributions on frozen credits, stock dividends, liquidation or foreign markets as reasons why they should take this stand.

They know their standards are being lowered, even below prewar. They know they have produced to excess and that the charge that they are slackers is an untruth, uttered by men who are either ignorant or dishonest.

The workers are not responsible for present conditions. They carried the burden of the war while the men who now talk of wage cuts were ignored.

No one paid any attention to these intellectual bankrupts and profiteers who reaped untold riches during the war, and who now emerge from their cyclone cellar, peep around to be assured of personal safety, and then insist on wage cuts.

Statistics are juggled to this end and every force at the command of greed is used to conceal waste, excessive charges, inordinate profits, and incompetent management.

Welfare Work In Postal Service Discussed

Washington, May 14.—In an editorial in the Post Office Journal, Secretary-Treasurer Flaherty of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks, makes this statement on the welfare department suggestion by Postmaster General Hays:

"Much interest is aroused by the announcement of the postmaster general's intention to establish a welfare department in the postal service. As a general proposition, we confess a certain amount of scepticism regarding the value of such of the so-called welfare work of private industry. Too often it is undertaken with the object in mind of short-circuiting the workers' demands for some fundamental reforms. Sometimes it is mere philanthropy to soothe the restless and lose some inheritance tax. Usually degenerate into sickening paternalism that robs the workers of self-initiative and initiative, and sleeper into the cogs of the industrial machine.

"But welfare activities in government employment can be carried on without risk, if they are left to the employes and the public by making the service more efficient from an economic standpoint. It must be understood at the outset, however, that welfare work is essentially the function of the employes' organization and cannot be instituted by them with only such departmental supervision as is absolutely necessary to guard against abuses.

"Welfare work directed by the department will never become a substitute for organized effort on the part of the employes to better working conditions and the service. The welfare department should only give expression to the concrete shape the ideals and aspirations of the employes as expressed through their various organizations. It can function advantageously by giving official sanction to the prestige of official approval to the expressions of the employes as set forth in their constitutions or transmitted through accredited representatives.

"If the contemplated welfare department can but consummate this intangible shape the ideas of the organized employes it will fill a long-felt want. In our opinion its value to the employes depends upon the nature of its structure. It must be founded in down in the rank and file of the postal workers and it functions as a transmitter to more speedily reach those in authority with suggestions of welfare work betterments, then we say, 'Bring on!'

"But if the welfare department is to be used as a buffer for those in authority to evade the granting of requests for reforms, it will simply be another agency for creating still deeper into the cogs of the industrial mire.

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TRACKLESS TROLLEYS.

New York, May 14.—Trackless trolleys will appear in this city within 60 days, according to plans authorized by the board of estimates. Eight trackless trolley cars will be operated on Staten Island in the junction's experimental line, it is said.

The cars will be equipped with rubber-tired wheels and will draw their motive power through an overhead trolley like the street car, but will enable them to run from the side of the road to another, passing other vehicles, it is said.

It is stated that the chief advantage of this system over the trolley car is the initial capital investment. The trackless system, it is stated, can be installed for $5,000 a mile for the road, against $25,000 a mile for the regular system on an improved street and $75,000 a mile on a paved street. Other savings, it is estimated, would amount to $2,700 a year for each car.

CALLS SEAMEN DEGRADED.

Washington, May 14.—Changed conditions at sea during 1921 have brought the seaman down from the most dignified of laboring men until he is now the "scum of society," declared Andrew Furuseth, president of the International Seamen's union, before a house committee in opposing modification of the provisions of the seamen's act of great lakes shipping.

Further reductions of standards in working conditions, he said, would only serve international shipping interests to their advantage to destroy the American merchant marine.

DEPRESSION WORLD WIDE.

Washington, May 14.—World-wide business depression is reflected in monthly reports from commercial attaches and trade commissioners in foreign countries, according to the government's bureau of foreign and domestic commerce.

The reports deal especially with conditions in England, France, Belgium, Germany, and Austria.

ABOLISH CIVIL SERVICE.

Albany, N. Y., May 14.—Despite petitions by organized labor Governor Miller has signed a bill which practically abolishes civil service rules in the reorganized state industrial commission. More than 400 employes are now without protection, save that accorded them by politicians.

LIVING WAGE THEORY REJECTED BY ROADS

Chicago, May 14.—The theory of a living wage was declared an attempt to create a "super-privileged class," by John G. Walber before the railway labor board, in presenting the railroad's opposition to wage demands of employes.

Mr. Walber is secretary of a publicity and information bureau maintained by eastern railroads. While unknown, he is a convincing spokesman for those who lack the courage and dealing with this stand.

The witness assured the board that the railroads are not ignoring humanitarian considerations, but there must be a "just and reasonable wage" for just and reasonable service.

To inject the living wage into this question would upset all the received notions of running a railroad and dealing with employes, he said.

Mr. Walber seemed astounded at the thought that a railroad worker should be entrusted a living wage, although he made no protest against the Cummins-Esch law, which guarantees interest on railroad stock. He referred to a living wage as "socialistic."

"Suppose a minimum wage is established for railroad workers," he said. "This class, with its present emoluments, simply because they are railroad workers, and have the economic power to enforce their will on the rest of the country. How long will it be before other industries are going to permit such a one-sided state of affairs? Most serious evils would result to this country if any attempt were made to apply the go-called living wage without having it done in a most comprehensive manner the methods of its application."

FORCE MEN ON STRIKE.

Washington, May 14.—Admiral Benson of the shipping board has announced that any company that operates ships owned by the government that agrees to last year's wage rates to marine engineers and seamen, will have their ships taken from them.

The workers are striking against wage reductions that will total more than 45 per cent exclusive of the re-establishment of the 13-hour day and the abolishment of overtime. The shipping board and vessel owners are a unit in opposing the seafarers.

The workers made every attempt to avoid a strike. They offered to leave the entire question to President Harding and accept any decision he might render. Admiral Benson refused, on the ground that he did not want to "change the policy of the government." The workers asked if American citizens would be given first preference in employment, and second preference to workers who have declared their intention of becoming citizens. Admiral Benson refused to give this pledge on the international position of the first statement of its kind made by an American naval officer.

The men forwarded a communication to the president in which they agreed to abide by any decision he would make. The president referred the matter to members of his cabinet, who considered the matter with his interested parties.

GOMPERS IS DEFENDED

Washington, May 14.—Organized culinary workers of Buffalo, N. Y., repudiate the statement made in the house under condition that "Gompers secretly stopped at a hotel in Buffalo, Gompers and accept no responsibility for the same."

"Whereas, no public criticism has been made against President Gompers and Secretary Morrison of the A. F. of L. for stopping at the Arlington hoted on his recent visit to Buffalo, N. Y.; and

"Whereas, no favors or beverages are prepared or served in the said hotel, therefore no culinary workers or beverage dispensers are employed; and

"Whereas, the Arlington hotel was not a part of the Buffalo Hotel Men's association at the times of the strike of the H. and R. E. I. A. and B. I. L. of A. at Buffalo, N. Y., and therefore was not a party to that controversy; therefore, be it

"Resolved, that we affirm and declare that we are not in accord with the public criticism offered against President Gompers and accept no responsibility for the same."

PRINTING TRADES GAIN.

Indianapolis, May 14.—"The report from unaffiliated unions is most encouraging," reports the executive council of the International Typographical union in the official bulletin on the 44-hour movement of the printing trades.

"Not near as many members are on strike as was expected. Large numbers of offices in various jurisdictions went on 44-hour week basis on May 2. All indications point to a settlement in most of the jurisdictions in a short time."

The bulletin states that the membership of the I. T. U. agreed to conduct themselves by a large vote. The strike is confined to periodical and commercial shops. Allied with the printing trades are the stereotypers, bookbinders and stereotypers.

UPSET "NATURAL" LAW.

Tacoma, Wash., May 14.—Organized teamsters in this city have upset the "natural" law of supply and demand. Every unemployed person in the city has work, whereas that work cuts are inevitable and living standards must be readjusted. The teamsters notices that employers are not "readjusting" their living standards, so they started an organizing campaign. Result: Team owners renew last year's agreement.

HUGE STEEL PROFITS.

New York, May 14.—The Cambria Steel company reports a clear profit in 1920 of $9,892,116. This is equal to 19.78 per cent on the capital stock. Profits in 1919 were 9.3 per cent on the capital stock, and 57.1 per cent in 1918.

Despite those huge profits, A. A. Cook, president of the company, reports to the stockholders that the present year "must be devoted to the solution of ineffectual labor

LAWYERS GOUGE WORKERS.

Newark, N. J., May 14.—War on lawyers who gouge injured workers has been declared by Deputy Commissioner of Labor Goss. The official says the state's compensation bureau is for the purpose of aiding these workers, who in the time of a systematic scheme to extort fees.

MIDDLE MEN PROSPER; RICE GROWERS STARVE

Washington, May 14.—While rice is retailing in the nation's capital for 10 cents a pound, Arkansas rice growers are paid 25 cents a bushel and less for this product, according to letters to Senator Robinson from several rice growing farmers of that state. These letters make bitter complaint against the Southern Rice Growers' association and mills, which handle the rice.

Senator Robinson has introduced a resolution into congress that the industry and the plan is supported by growers who show that they are in debt as a result of their efforts last year.

T. T. Hasty, of Almyra, Ark., writes: "I had 2,000 bushels of rice, and it netted me but $2,500, about 25 cents a bushel. I averaged 80 bushels to the acre and when they cut down all expenses, I left me $2,000 behind on the acreage. Consequently I can't even obtain one dollar to make this crop. The banks will not help us to even pay for seed."

Wm. Penrose, of Hunter, Ark., writes: "I may certainly say that the neighborhood has received just $250 under the contracts" (with the Southern Rice Growers' association).

From Loncke, Ark., comes this information: "The producer can not get a report on his rice. It looks like the only way to get the rice to the mills last fall and a few days ago I received a letter offering 10 cwts a bushel." Another received 11 cents on 9,000 bushels of good rice. "I got a letter from another writer, 'who got $18 for a car of rice.' Others got $12 per car, without sufficient food. Honest men can not pay interest on their debts, or get another dollar, or get credit for supplies."

HOW SPY SYSTEM WORKS.

New York, May 14.—The private detective agency known as the "Foster Service" has forwarded this report to business men:

"I will say that if we are employed further to use the local association is formed by the employed there will be no strike and no disturbance. The union is not say that there will be no unions formed, but the control we all officials and activities of the union and direct its policies, provided we also allow it to be loyal to our clients.

"If a union is already formed and no strike is on or anticipated, but declared within 30 or 60 days, although we are not in the same position to control it, we will in above case, we could—and I believe with success—start the union activities would result in factions, disagreement, resignations of officials and general disruption of membership and, if a strike were called, we would be in a position to furnish information, etc., of contemplated assaults."

The agency is headed by Robert J. Foster, who was declared in contempt by the senate investigating committee which is probing the building trust in this city. Foster refused to inform the committee regarding his connections with the Chamber of Commerce, citizens' and other anti-union organizations.

FREIGHT RATES NOW BLAMED.

Philadelphia, May 14.—Business interests are already preparing alibis for the failure of industry to respond to the wage reductions by the steel trust.

In a leading article published in the business section of the Public Ledger it is stated that the trust's wage cut "will have little effect in stimulating the iron and steel market" and that "orders are waiting rates is looked for as the greatest stimulus that could come."

Former claims as to what would happen if wages were reduced is now forgotten, and the regulation "steel authority" is trotted out with this alibi:

"Reduction in freight rates is essential to a resumption of normal business. There must be a permanent readjustment with transportation costs out of proportion. When rates are low enough to keep down further and stable business can be resumed."

MINERS' WAGES WILL STAND.

Indianapolis, May 14.—Miners' wages will not be reduced, said John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, who pointed out that the agreement in effect under a wage scale fixed by the United States bituminous coal commission, and that that agreement does not expire until March 31, next year. The agreement was signed by the president and functioned under governmental authority.

"Those at interest will not delay purchase upon the theory or with the hope that any reduction in wages will be acceptable to the mine workers. Statements to the contrary have no basis in fact," said President Lewis.

RECORD SUGAR CROP.

Washington, May 14.—This country's greatest sugar crop was produced last year, according to the department of agriculture. The total was 1,266,145 tons, or a gain of 12 per cent over the record crop of 1918. Cane sugar production is confined almost entirely to Louisiana, but beet sugar production is widely distributed from Michigan and Ohio to California. Only a few crop of country that has been called the sugar-beet belt.

BARBERS AVOID STRIKE.

St. Paul, Minn., May 14.—The citizens' alliance failed to chock a wage agreement between barber shop proprietors and employes. The new contract calls for $25 a week and 50 per cent of all receipts over $35. Former working conditions will continue.

HEADS LABOR BOARD.

Chicago, May 14.—Judge R. M. Barton has been re-elected chairman of the railway labor board. He represents the public on the board, and was recently reappointed by the president.

BAKERS RAISE WAGES.

Baltimore, May 14.—Organized bakers in this city have secured a new agreement which provides for wage increase.

VAST SUMS EXPENDED ON EUROPEAN BABIES

Washington, May 14.—Child welfare work supported by state funds in part of countries in Europe, like Great Britain, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany and Italy, according to a report by the United States children's bureau.

In all of these countries, it is stated, laws designed to reduce infant mortality have been in force for a number of years. This legislation forbids the industrial employment of mothers before the baby child birth and provides for maternity insurance. Great success in reducing infant mortality is reported.

Experience shows that this is not sufficient, according to the report, and more direct and special measures to save the lives of babies have been undertaken by governments and aid chiefly during the past decade. Appropriations are being made for the support and scientific study of baby health centers and prenatal visiting, notably in Great Britain, France, Belgium and France.

In England practically every aspect of infant and maternity welfare is covered. Since 1914 that country has made appropriations of 50 per cent of approved expenditures on infant welfare work done by voluntary agencies, local associations or county authorities.

In France subsidies up to 20 per cent of approved outlay are given to infant welfare organizations by the government.

The Belgian government pays half the cost of health centers and other health activities.

In 1918-19 Great Britan spent £258,000 of government funds on infant welfare and in 1918 France appropriated 65,000,000 francs to infant welfare work in addition to 3,000,000 francs for nursing premiums and maternity benefits.

TO AID HUNGRY WORKERS.

Birmingham, Ala., May 14.—Officers of the state federation of labor have supplemented their donation of $500 to aid hungry workers in the state with a financial appeal to Alabama trade unionists.

"The unemployment conditions of Alabama," it is stated, "are worse than they have been in this state in the history of the state and the general situation has become serious. Thousands of men have been out of employment for several months throughout the state.

"This, of course, was in itself a serious situation, and then came the government's decision in the miners' strike in which he (the governor) stated that the operators should not be obligated to re-employ the men who had struck, and that he did not see why it was necessary to morally bound to help relieve the situation. The mines in this district practically closed down or running on part time, and the miners are without employment. It is a thing to eat.

"We are reliably informed that there are approximately 40,000 men, women and children in the mining districts of this state who are practically destitute, without food or any kind. Several thousand of them are living in tents furnished by the United Mine Workers of America."

LEGALIZE CO-OPERATION.

Washington, May 14.—The house has passed a bill authorizing farmers to organize co-operative associations for profit.

Under the Capper amendment to the anti-trust law agricultural organizations may issue stock but may have no capital stock and do not earn dividends. The act just passed permits organizations of farmers to sell farm products, and they may earn profits not exceeding 8 per cent.

Advocates of the bill insist that they do not want special privileges, but want to be sure that when they enter into contracts to market they will not have every district attorney in the country jumping on them."

Congressman Summers of Texas declared that farmers over the country that is trying to do that which is necessary to give him "some" sort of a square deal. Fundamental in this question than a re-adjustment of exchanges. The question before the house, gentlemen, involves the welfare of our country; it will decide whether or not the farmers shall get dividends or whether millions of dollars shall have an American standard of living."

"BACK TO LAND" NOT EASY.

Washington, May 14.—Commissioner Spry of the general land office, told the senate public lands committee that "back-to-the-land" is easier said than done.

In urging the passage of a bill that would create a $250,000,000 reclamation fund for western lands, the commissioner said:

"Many people believe there is a great deal of land that is ready and ready for entry, but this land cannot be entered upon successfully for years. Under the bill 10,000 soldiers land where 25 or 30 acres are reserved to support a family, but the result would be that the soldiers, after two or three years, would throw up their hands and leave, cursing the government."

PRIMARY LAW WEAKENED.

Albany, N. Y., May 14.—Governor Miller has signed the Whitley bill, which repeals the primary law so far as it applies to the nomination of state and judicial officers. For them the convention system is restored. Under the amendment at the next election the people will vote for state officials and judges that are selected under the old caucus and convention plan.

Sentiment in the Whitley legislature was strong to repeal the entire direct primary law, but it was thought best to delay final execution until the next session.

WOULD AID MOTHERS.

Washington, May 14.—In a bill introduced by Senator Curtis provision is made for the relief of needy mothers with dependents in the District of Columbia. A board of children's guardians would be created by the United States at the annual convention of that organization.

Congressman Good of Iowa told these business men that such a tax might be considered so unjust and oppressive as to lead to a revolt which might shake the foundations of the government."

DIVIDENDS ON WATER IS GRIPPLING NATION

Washington, May 14. — Relief "from the intolerable railway rates now being wrought on business and nation throughout the country" was urged by Mr. Capper in a senate speech. The Kansas lawmaker has introduced a bill which would repeal the 6 per cent guarantee to railroad stockholders.

"I have never known a more alarming situation, so far as the business of the west is concerned," he said.

"The people have paid the railroads nearly $1,000,000,000 more this last few years by way of a government guarantee. On top of that they have paid higher rail rates, amounting to from 50 to 82 per cent.

"When railroads get more for hauling farm products than the producers are paid for producing them it is evident that freight rates are entirely too high.

"I think the growers can ship rice across the ocean to Liverpool and from Liverpool back here and sell it cheaper than they can ship it by rail direct from Beaumont, Texas, to New York.

"Cotton can be shipped from Galveston to Bremen, a distance of 5,000 miles, for 21 cents a hundred pounds. But to ship by rail a bale of cotton from the farm to the mill a distance of 280 miles costs 95 cents a hundred—about three times as much.

"Spinach, cabbage and onions rot in the fields of New Jersey and there are wasting in Kansas; fruits are stacked in California, and hides are being sold to tan mills all parts of the country because these products can not be shipped over American railroads at a profit.

"Mr. President, nothing is going to be gained by maintaining freight rates at a point which makes the railways too expensive for the people to use.

"The way out is to encourage the people to use the railways by reducing it possible for them to ship goods and travel; to give business a chance to live and to prosper. There is no profit in rusting rails for anybody."

PROBE WILL END AS USUAL.

New York, May 14.—United States Senator Moses' plan to subject American industry to a searching probe will amount to nothing, thinks Mark Daniels, managing editor of Justice, official magazine of the International Ladies' Garment Worker's union. Daniels calls attention to a similar resolution introduced by the New York legislature, but which died a peaceful death.

That plitle about 'hotbeds of sovietism,' 'curbing down of production,' etc., may sound amusing on paper," says Editor Daniels. "Should it come to a real investigation, however, the sentiment in the employing end of the clothing industry know quite well that the people's representatives are not constructive and interesting to offer to the public anything in the nature of a lurid light upon their sinister activities and price gouging for the last few years. Nothing startling money would not look quite so prettily on paper.

"So it might, after all, be found best to drop the whole matter, as has been done by the New York assembly."

WAGE CUTS NO SOLUTION.

Chicago, May 14.—Difficulties confronting the railway can not be solved by wage reductions, said W. H. Stone, president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, testifying before the railway labor board.

"The truth is," he said, "that in the boom period the railways increases and the employes donated their services and paid their own expenses, some roads would still be on the rocks. It is impossible for the railroads to operate under present high financial mismanagement of their system of watered stock.

"There is something more fundamental in this question than a re-adjustment of exchanges. The question before the house, gentlemen, involves the welfare of our country; it will decide whether or not the farmers shall get dividends or whether millions of dollars shall have an American standard of living."

DROP NEWBERRY CHARGES.

Washington, May 14.—Following a decision by the department of justice to drop the legality of the corrupt practices act, the department of justice has ordered its subordinates at Grand Rapids, Mich., to drop pending indictments against United States Senator Newberry.

Senator Newberry was found guilty of violating the law in the primary campaign in which he and Henry Ford were candidates for senator. The case went to the supreme court, which has ruled that congress has no power to regulate primaries. It is understood that the present law there is no restriction to expenditures by a candidate.

RAIL WORKERS SUED.

Toledo, Ohio, May 14.—Suit has been started in the federal court by Judge Killits, a master, against the United Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes and Railway Shop Laborers, it is learned. The suit grows out of an alleged conspiracy to destroy the railroads by former officers of this brotherhood.

The union bought factories outright. The plan had no semblance of co-operation, and was a business venture of the usual sort, Bacon Bros. allege a breaking of contract.

COST OF LIVING SHOWN.

Chicago, May 14.—The bare subsistence for a family of five in this country costs $1,617 a year, said W. M. Leiserson, of the labor department's bureau of labor board. The economists for the department have showed that a "minimum comfort standard" should be $2,500 annually and that a "proper standard of living" would cost $3,500.

SHIP FRUIT IN GAS CARS.

Berkeley, Cal., May 14.—A new plan for shipping fruit wherein an atmospheres of carbon dioxide gas is substituted for the refrigerator car, is announced in this city. Experiments show that fresh fruits can be transported by freight cars across the country in carbon dioxide gas at one-tenth the cost of operating refrigerator cars.

"MOLDING PUBLIC OPINION"

Below is shown how newspapers "print the facts" on the labor question.

One editor writes before the steel trust cut wages and before he knew that the steel trust's claim that it would abolish the 12-hour day is not true. This editor lands Gary,ism for strengthening the weakest point in its armor by disarming the "agitator" who works among the "excitable and unAmericanized immigrant employes" of the steel trust.

The other editor writes his story after the steel trust reduced wages. He finds that the 12-hour day will be continued and lauds to the defense of the steel trust by explaining that the workers demand the 12-hour day.

The two stories show how alleged "public opinion molders" jump when big business speaks.

DETROIT FREE PRESS.
(Issue May 6)

Judge Gary's announcement that the United States steel corporation has done away with the 12-hour day in some departments, and that in the near future it will be completely eliminated within the next year, should be welcome news to the country.

The 12-hour day is the weakest point in the steel corporation's armor when it is called upon to deal with a labor difficulty. It is the most valid argument that the I. W. W. agitator has when he goes to work among the excitable and unAmericanized immigrant employes of the steel mills.

PITTSBURGH POST.
(Issue May 8)

The wage policy of the United States steel corporation, retaining the 12-hour day, as announced by Judge Gary, discredited many rumors regarding the three-shift day by executive order.

The real reason the 12-hour day remains on the company's rolls is because the workers themselves would not stand for its abolition.

Had the experiment been tried the result, it is said here, certainly would have been trouble in the mills. Wages is what the workers want increased, not reduced now, and not abridged hours of labor.

MAY OUST LABOR MEN.

Washington, May 14.—One result of the senate's investigation of the railroad question may result in ousting the present members of the labor board and appointing all representatives of the "public." The plan is to appoint "some" railroad labor men but as railroad men—not just ordinary, plain, every-day Americans who have no interest except that justice be served. This explanation is thoroughly understood by railroad employes.

The Washington correspondent for the Philadelphia North American says that the labor board is the only railroad corporations "because the public is behind it in the sense that are known to be friendly to railroad interests and this circumstance has been made the basis for the assertion what is desired most is to get rid of the representatives of labor on the board."

As now constituted the board consists of three members, divided equally between representatives of the public, railroad workers and railroad management.

BANKS RUN FARMS.

St. Louis, Mo., May 14.—The federal reserve bank is giving circular tion to a warning by Mississippi bankers that farmers must plant less cotton and that no money will be loaned to buy food stuffs, which must be raised on the farms.

"With an average crop of cotton next fall, the price will be cheap," say the bankers, who give notice that "we will make no loans to any farmer after July 1 next where any part of the proceeds is to be used for anything but the actual necessities, if you expect to buy your feed next year, instead of growing your own feed, it will be necessary for you to borrow your money from some one else besides us."

The bankers justify their position by the statement that last year they loaned more than $1,000,000 to purchase food for families and cattle and at the same time have large sterling lines of "frozen credits" in cotton.

The federal reserve bank at Atlanta has appealed to farmers in that district to plant less cotton, as it is feared that a bumper crop will bring ruinous prices.

ANTIS SHOW POORLY.

San Francisco, May 14.—Anti-union forces made a poor showing before the recent session of the California legislature, says Paul Scharrenberg, secretary of the state federation of labor.

"The widely advertised anti-union campaign of the 'better America' committee virtually collapsed in the first round," says the labor leader, "before the session had ended it became self evident that the 'better America federation' C. of C. in any measure ment almost certain defeat.

"Although every effort was made to make 'economy' a slogan for reaction, the promised annihilation of labor legislation could not be rendered especially effective service in matters affecting the working people, failed to materialize."

SAYS MOONEY WAS "FRAMED."

San Francisco, May 14.—In an affidavit supporting Thomas J. Mooney in the recent session of the state federation of labor, Judge Griffin declares that Mooney was wrongfully convicted. Judge Griffin presided at the Mooney trial. The jurist declares in the affidavit that he is convinced that the prosecution's evidence has been entirely discredited, and that evidence has been discovered since the trial ended.

"This matter has now become," said the trial judge, "not merely a blot on the Mooney case, but it involves a much larger and more important consideration, that is the entire system of judicial proceedings of any suspicion of injustice or unfairness in order that courts shall have the respect and confidence of the people."

WILL EXAMINE EMPLOYES.

Harrisburg, Pa., May 14.—Governor Sproul has signed the Miller bill providing for examination of employed in hotels, restaurants, dining cars and eating places in this state to obtain a physician's certificate showing freedom from infectious or contagious diseases.

ARE AGAIN CONFERRING.

New York, May 14.—For the first time in nine months, organized employers in the cloak and suit industry are discussing matters with representatives of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union.

BUILDERS HOLD LINE.

Charleston, W. Va., May 14.—The Contractors' association has renewed its agreement with the building trades council. The 44-hour week and last year's wage rates will continue.

BREWING COMPANY SIGNS.

Newark, N. J., May 14.—Stationary engineers employed by the Ballantine Brewing company have secured a wage scale of $46 for a six-day week. The firemen's contract calls for $39 a week.

WHAT STEEL TRUST PAYS.

New York, May 14.—Writing in the New York World, S. S. Fontaine says that the average wages paid by the steel trust per man last year was $6.96 per day. This is exclusive of the general administrative staff, salaries of which these latter are included, together with the judge Gary's salary, the average would be $7.

Or, in other words, the average wage of the steel trust, including superintendents, etc., of the steel trust, is nominally $6.96 per day. It is only 4 cents a day more than the average wage paid workers in the mills, according to Mr. Fontaine.

A Pittsburgh correspondent to the Evening Post quotes a series of statistics which show an average of $1.90 a day less than the figures of the New York World correspondent. The Pittsburgh man writes:

"A reduction from 46 cents to 37 cents an hour reduces the rate for a day from $3.68 to $2.96 for eight-hour men, and from $5.06 to $4.07 for 11-hour men, and from $6.44 to $5.18 for 12-hour men."

This is an average of $5.06 a day for the old rate, and an average reduction to $4.07 for all employes.

The Post says that when Mr. Fontaine's figures after the 20 per cent cut. His average hourly average last year was $6.96. A 20 per cent reduction from this amount would be $5.56, the same as given by the 12-hour men last year, according to the other correspondent.

EDUCATION COUNTS.

Washington, May 14.—Thomas A. Edison declares that the college graduate is a meaningless human unit, and Dr. P. P. Claxton, United States commissioner of education, insists upon his application of scientific principles to which would be used by others—most of them college men.

Under the program manufacturing, mining, transportation, agriculture—yes, and electricity, too—will been placed on a higher plane of science. Most of these discoveries have been made by college-bred men.

"It took capital and organization to build the railroads, but the work wasn't possible until colleges trained engineers had prepared the plans, and College men, also, have had built upon the work of Walter P. Chrysler, K. on any measure to establish healthful conditions."

BROKERS ARE HAPPY.

New York, May 14.—Stock brokers in this city are happy, according to this statement, issued by a well-known firm of brokers in this city:

"Announcement by United States Steel that it has done away with all its employes 20 per cent was a life-giving tonic to the market, which climbed to new high point for the year 1921 on Wednesday. What this wage reduction, which seems accepted by the men, portends supplied a high degree of enthusiasm to the market. Stocks have as it was by the reduction in the rediscount rate announced by the federal reserve bank of this city.

"The stock market, having discounted all bad news, during which now offers great values for the farsighted and discriminating investor."

MODEST BUSINESS MEN.

Philadelphia, May 14.—The following letter was received by the National Association of Hosiery and Underwear Manufacturers, at their headquarters in this city:

Abolishment of the excess profits tax, less wages for railroad employes and the non-union shop.

These modest business men also indicate that the Mooney case, but the so-called "open price" associations, now under attack by the federal trade commission regarding prices of manufactured articles.

Under all plan prices are reported to the "open price" organization, for the benefit of the members.

PAINTERS HOLD WAGES.

Kansas City, Mo., May 14.—Three locals of painters and paperhangers in this city have renewed their wage agreement with employers. Last year's rates and working conditions will prevail.

Bloomfield, N. J., May 14.—A strike of 40 painters for higher pay has been avoided by contractors agreeing to a wage rate of $9 a day.

REPEAL "FULL CREW."

Harrisburg, Pa., May 14.—Governor Sproul has signed the bill which repeals the railroad full crew law. The full crew law was passed by the state legislature a few years ago in spite of determined opposition from the railroads. It has continued their fight against this safety act.

BARBERS JOIN UNION.

Indianapolis, May 14.—Officers of the Journeymen Barbers' International union report the issuance of these recent charters: Sioux City, Iowa; Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; Wichita, Okla.; Staten Island, N. Y.; The Dalles, Ore.; McKinney and Sherman, Texas; Danville, Clinton Forge and Charlottesville, Va.